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Message Text

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PAGE 01 ISLAMA 08334 250741Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ICAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01 ICA-11 SP-02 SSO-00 INRE-00
ACDA-12 IO-13 L-03 EB-08 NRC-05 OES-09 SOE-02
DOE-15 SS-15 CEQ-01 PM-05 SAS-02 NSCE-00 AID-05
H-01 DOEE-00 SAA-01 /144 W
----------104826 250752Z /13
O R 250700Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8811
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
AMEMBASSY DACCA
AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
CINCPAC HI

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: TECH, MNUC, PK, FR
SUBJECT: REPROCESSING - PRESS TREATMENT

REF: (A) ISLAMABAD 8318; (B) STATE 215950

1. IN WHAT IS OBVIOUSLY INSPIRED STORY, GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED PAKISTAN TIMES AUG. 25 CARRIES FULLER EXPLANATION OF WHAT GEN. ZIA SAID IN AUG. 23 PRESS CONFERENCE. FOLLOWING ARE DIRECT EXCERPTS FROM PAKISTAN TIMES STORY:

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PAGE 02 ISLAMA 08334 250741Z

QUOTE: IN REPLY OF THE FRENCH PRESIDENT, MR. GISCARD D'ESTAING TO THE CHIEF MARTIAL LAW ADMINISTRATOR, GEN. M. ZIA-UL-HAQ IS NOT HELPFUL FOR THE FULFILLMENT OF THE CONTRACT ON THE REPROCESSING PLANT.

THIS WHAT WAS IMPLIED BY GENERAL ZIA-UL-HAQ'S REPLY TO A QUESTION DURING THE COURSE OF HIS PRESS CONFERENCE YESTER-

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

DAY. MODIFICATION OF THE PLANT IS WHAT PAKISTAN HAS ALWAYS CONSIDERED IMPRACTICABLE. BUT THIS IS WHAT THE FRENCH PRESIDENT HAS ASKED PAKISTAN TO DO.

HE HAS EXPRESSED HIS GOVERNMENT'S INABILITY TO SUPPLY THE PLANT AS AGREED UPON "UNDER THE PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES." WHAT THOSE "CIRCUMSTANCES" ARE HAVE NOT BEEN DISCLOSED, BUT AMERICA HAS BEEN MOUNTING PRESSURE ON BOTH FRANCE AND PAKISTAN FOR OVER A YEAR TO CANCEL THE CONTRACT TO "PREVENT PROLIFERATION."

BEFORE FRANCE EXPRESSED ITS DISINCLINATION TO SUPPLY THE PLANT IN THE FORM AGREED UPON, THE AMERICAN ADMINISTRATION MADE IT KNOWN THAT IT WOULD NOT MODIFY ITS DECISION UNDER WHICH NON-FOOD AID TO PAKISTAN WAS STOPPED IN APRIL LAST YEAR. ACCORDING TO INDIAN REPORTS, THE U.S. ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE WHO RECENTLY VISITED THE SUB-CONTINENT HAD INDICATED TO THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT THAT THE PAKISTAN-FRANCE AGREEMENT WOULD BE OFF.

OBVIOUSLY, THEREFORE, PAKISTAN REQUIRES BIG DOSES OF ENERGY, AND IN VIEW OF ITS NOT VERY HIGH HYDRO AND COAL POTENTIAL, NUCLEAR ENERGY SEEMS TO BE ONLY LASTING AND DEPENDABLE SOURCE FOR IT. NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY HAS TO BE PROCURED, WHAT-EVER THE PRESSURES AND HURDLES, AND "COME WHAT MAY," AS THE CMLA SAID.
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PAKISTAN IS SUPPOSED TO BE IN POSSESSION OF NUCLEAR KNOW-HOW; ONLY THE BASIC INDUSTRY IS LACING WHICH IT WILL HAVE TO BUILD INDEPENDENTLY. MANY COUNTRIES HAVE DONE THIS, AND SINCE PAKISTAN IS PLEDGED TO NON-PROLIFERATION AND CREA-TION OF NUCLEAR FREE ZONES IN SEVERAL REGIONS OF THE WORLD, ITS SCIENTISTS CAN CONCENTRATE ON IT WITH CLEAR CONSCIENCE. END QUOTE.

2. COMMENT: A QUICK CHECK OF THE URDU PRESS MORNING OF AUG 25 SHOWS THIS STORY WITH SLIGHT VARIATIONS WAS CARRIED.

-- THE PAK TIMES PIECE IS HEAVY ON THE NEED FOR NUCLEAR ENERGY BUT SPEAKS BROADLY OF GOP DETERMINATION TO OBTAIN REQUIRED TECHNOLOGY, AND OMITS SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO REPROCESSING AS PART OF THAT TECHNOLOGY. WE WILL BE WATCHING CAREFULLY TO SEE IF THE GOP CAN ADHERE TO THIS STRATEGY IN ITS PUBLIC HANDLING OF NUCLEAR FALLOUT.
HUMMEL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NUCLEAR FUELS, NEWS MEDIA COMMENTS, PRESS CONFERENCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978ISLAMA08334
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: UPGRADED PER MEMO P820114-0622
Executive Order: R1 19860819 MCMANAWAY, CLAYTON
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: P820114-0623, D780348-0264
Format: TEL
From: ISLAMABAD
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780824/aaaaatyh.tel
Line Count: 113
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 1836105c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: LOU
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LOU
Reference: 78 ISLAMABAD 8318, 78 STATE 215950
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1623632
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REPROCESSING - PRESS TREATMENT
TAGS: TECH, MNUC, PK, FR
To: STATE ANKARA
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/1836105c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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20 Mar 2014
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